



State of South Carolina
Office of The Lieutenant Governor

André Bauer
Lieutenant Governor

Office on Aging
Cornelia D. Gibbons
Director

Media Advisory:
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**\$10,000 grant from Lt. Governor's Office on Aging Will Support
Evening Alzheimer's Respite Program in Georgetown**

- **Who:** The Oasis Adult Day Care Center, Director, Mazie Graham-Faison. Ms. Graham-Faison can be contacted at (843) 527-4848.
- **What:** This local organization that serves senior citizens and their families in your community was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from the South Carolina Lt. Governor's Office on Aging to begin an evening Group Respite Care program at their location in Georgetown.
- **When:** On June 28, Lt. Governor André Bauer will personally present the grant award to Center and Program leaders. Photographs of the award presentation will be available for news organizations unable to attend.
- **Where:** The grant awards ceremony will take place at the Statehouse in Columbia. Lt. Governor Bauer's Office is on the first floor.

Background:

The Oasis Adult Day Care Center in Georgetown aims to give individuals caring for a family member or loved one an option they haven't had before – evening respite care. And with \$10,000 provided by a South Carolina Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center (ARCC) seed grant, the program is off to a good start.

Group respite programs provide structured activities in a safe, caring environment for individuals suffering from Alzheimer's or related disorders. These programs fulfill a tremendous need for family members and other caregivers by giving them a break from the demands of providing care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Group respite programs also greatly benefit the individuals being cared for by providing them with social interaction and exercise overseen by trained professionals. Oasis' program will be unique in the Georgetown area in providing these services during the late afternoon and early evening hours. Many caregivers work during the day, and could benefit from being able to have a few hours free in the evening. Oasis administrator's hope the program will provide a cost-effective alternative to premature institutionalization of Alzheimer's patients, while giving caregivers a much need evening break.

The Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center (ARCC) in the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging was created to provide statewide coordination, service system development, information and referral, and caregiver support services to individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, their families and caregivers. Legislation directs the center to:

- Initiate the development of systems which coordinate the delivery of programs and services
- Facilitate the coordination and integration of research, program development, planning and quality assurance
- Identify potential users of services and gaps in the service delivery system and expand methods and resources to enhance statewide services
- Serve as a resource for education, research and training and provide information and referral services
- Provide technical assistance for the development of support groups and other local initiatives to serve individuals, families and caregivers
- Recommend public policy concerning Alzheimer's disease and related disorders to state policymakers
- Submit an annual report to the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging and to the General Assembly

A detailed demographic look at South Carolina and Georgetown County's senior population based on the 2000 federal census can be found at www.scmatureadults.org. The report Mature Adults in South Carolina is a publication of the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging.